

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Ranking Members Miner, France, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Andrea Aron, from Madison, and I'm writing in support of funding The \$3.6 Million allocation to the Department of Public Health for community Gun Violence Prevention Programs included in the Governor's Bill 5037.

I am a member of Moms Demand Action and an adviser for a chapter of Students Demand Action. I also was a high school teacher in Connecticut for 41 years, the last five of which were very harrowing to the mental and physical health and wellness of the students. We were subjected to many lockdown drills and at least two active shooter lockdowns due to armed perpetrators near the school campus. In my classroom, which was a garage, we had nowhere to hide during the lockdowns. This was terrifying for us all. There were also incidents of weapons brought to school by students.

Funding for Gun Violence Prevention programs are necessary to provide a healthy school experience for all of our children. And parents should not have to worry about the safety of their children when they send them off to school every morning.

I thank the Appropriations Committee for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Aron
Madison